



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Energy Enhancement Activity – Recycle 100 Percent of Waste Lubricants On-Farm

Recycle 100 Percent of Waste Lubricants On-Farm

Lubricants are widely used on farms and ranches in a variety of machinery and equipment. Without proper disposal, lubricants can enter the environment causing damage to groundwater or surface water.

Benefits

Used lubricants can be collected, recycled, and used again or they can be used as an energy source. To reduce water degradation it is very important to purchase and use only essential lubricants, reuse them when possible, and to take the unwanted portions to a recycling center.

Criteria for Recycle 100 Percent of Waste Lubricants On-Farm Enhancement Activity

Farm lubricants are defined as oils, fluids, or greases, including all mineral-based oils, synthetic oils, or semi-synthetic oils used to reduce friction in equipment and machinery. Recycling involves disposal of lubricants through a recycling company or depot. Because of air quality concerns, burning is not considered recycling.

Used lubricants do not include any of the following:

- Products such as antifreeze and kerosene
- Vegetable and animal oil
- Petroleum distillates used as solvents

Requirements:

- Receipts from the receiving recycling company or depot showing recycling of the used lubricants.
- This is on an annual basis. The minimum amount is 25 gallons.

Note: It is important to check with each collection or recycling center to determine the type of waste lubricants that they accept before shipment.

Reference:

API - Used Motor Oil - Collection & Recycling, API Website: <http://www.recycleoil.org>

Environmental Protection Agency-Used Oil Management Program
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/usedoil/index.htm>